

P24023.A01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Masaharu SEKITA et al. Group Art Unit:
Serial No : 10/664,919 Examiner: Not Yet Assigned
Filed : September 22, 2003
For : BENDING METHOD AND BENDING SYSTEM

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97-1.98, Applicants hereby call the following documents to the Examiner's attention:

- U.S. Patent No. 6,256,547 to TOGNON, issued July 3, 2001;
- U.S. Patent No. 6,161,408 to OOENOKI et al., issued December 19, 2000;
- U.S. Patent No. 6,035,242 to UEMURA et al., issued March 7, 2000;
- U.S. Patent No. 6,003,353 to OOTANI et al., issued December 21, 1999;
- U.S. Patent No. 5,842,366 to KLINGEL et al., issued December 1, 1998;
- U.S. Patent No. 5,839,310 to TOKAI et al., issued November 24, 1998;
- U.S. Patent No. 5,497,647 to NAGAKURA, issued March 12, 1996;

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U.S. Patent No. 4,819,467 to GRAF et al., issued April 11, 1989;

U.S. Patent No. 5,980,085, to UEMURA et al., issued on November 9, 1999;

U.S. Patent No. 5,857,366, to KOYAMA, issued on January 12, 1999;

U.S. Patent No. 5,099,666, to SARTORIO et al., issued on March 31, 1992; and

U.S. Patent No. 5,148,693, to SARTORIO et al., issued on September 22, 1992.

Japanese Laid-Open Publication No. 8-257641, together with an English language abstract of the same;

Japanese Laid-Open Publication No. 6-285548, together with an English language abstract of the same.

Each of the documents listed above was either cited by the Examiner or submitted by the Applicants in the parent U.S. Patent Application No. 09/581,174, issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,662,610 to SEKITA et al. on December 16, 2003. Accordingly, copies of the above-noted documents are not enclosed, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98. However, the above-noted documents are listed on the attached PTO-1449 form. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider each cited document and to indicate such consideration by appropriately initialing the enclosed PTO-1449 form and returning a copy of the initialed form with the next communication.

Applicants would also like to bring the following related copending and commonly assigned patent application to the attention of the Examiner:

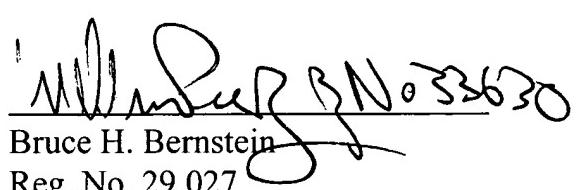
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U.S. Patent Application No. 10/320,689 to SEKITA et al., filed December 17, 2002.

While, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(iii), a copy of the above-noted application, as filed, should be attached hereto, since the specification of the present application is substantially the same as that of Application No. 10/320,689 only a copy of the claims is attached. However, the Examiner is respectfully requested to review and consider this application any rejections therein, and any documents of record therein.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Masaharu SEKITA


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December 22, 2003
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Form PTO-1449		U.S. Department of Commerce Patent & Trademark Office	Atty. Docket No. P24023	Serial No. 10/664,919
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)		Applicant Masaharu SEKITA et al.		
		Filing Date September 22, 2003	Group	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER							DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	6	2	5	6	5	4	7	07/03/2001	TOGNON			
	6	1	6	1	4	0	8	12/19/2000	OOENOKI et al.			
	6	0	3	5	2	4	2	07/03/01	UEMURA et al.			
	6	0	0	3	3	5	3	12/21/1999	OOTANI et al.			
	5	8	4	2	3	6	6	12/01/1998	KLINGEL et al.			
	5	8	3	9	3	1	0	11/24/1998	TOKAI et al.			
	5	4	9	7	6	4	7	03/12/1996	NAGAKURA			
	4	8	1	9	4	6	7	04/11/89	GRAF et al.			
	5	9	8	0	0	8	5	11/09/1999	UEMURA et al.			
	5	8	5	7	3	6	6	01/12/1999	KOYAMA			
	5	0	9	9	6	6	6	03/31/1992	SARTORIO et al.			
	5	1	4	8	6	9	3	09/22/1992	SARTORIO et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER							DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
	8	-	2	5	7	6	4	1	10/08/1996	JAPAN		
	6	-	2	8	5	5	4	8	10/11/1994	JAPAN		

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	1	English Language Abstract of JP 8-257641.
	2	English Language Abstract of JP 6-285548.

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.